A NEW SPECIES OF LISTRONOTUS FROM NORTH OF MEXICO

By F. H. CHITTENDEN

Entomologist, U. S. Bureau of Entomology

Listronotus leucozonatus new species.

Elongate oval, fully two and a half times as long as wide, cylindrical, dark brown, clothed with dark and light brown and gray scales. Rostrum rather short and stout, nearly as long as the prothorax, very feebly carinate and sulcate. Prothorax nearly as wide as long, sides rather feebly arcuate, narrowed posteriorly; disc coarsely and very closely punctate, punctation much obscured by large round scales, which are light and dark brown at the middle and sides forming a rather wide yellow sinuate band each side and a very narrow one at the middle. Elytra nearly twice as long as wide, much wider at base than the prothorax, humeri obtuse; sides subparallel in basal three-fourths; striæ narrow, moderately and closely punctate in basal half, much finer in the apical half; basal half clothed somewhat sparsely with small variegated light and dark brown round scales; intervals nearly flat except at apex; lateral half with a wide band of very dense yellowish gray scales, bending backward toward the ends, apex coated with variegated yellow and rich brown scales; setæ short, yellow and sparse in apical third. First, second, and fifth ventral segments rather coarsely subreticulately punctate, third and fourth more finely punctate. Femora with a rather broad ring of gray one-third from the apex.

♂.—Apices of elytra conjointly rounded. First and second ventral segments scarcely separated, long, concave; more or less impressed at the sides.

♀.—Apices of elytra produced into very minute, short, acute points; fifth ventral segment transversely concave near the base, moderately but distinctly convex in apical half, otherwise simple.

Length, 4.5–5.2mm; width, 1.7–1.9mm.

Ithaca, New York, N. Y. (Chittenden); Washington, D. C., July 6, 1910 (Chittenden); Ohio.

Type ♂.—Cat. No. 28831, U. S. National Museum.

This species is generally confused in collections with the related *appendiculatus*. It differs as follows: Pronotum shorter, color pattern distinct, in the female the structure of the fifth

abdominal segment as described, and the minute apical points of the elytra. The reticulately punctate fifth ventral segment is in contrast to the finer punctation in the latter. Moreover, the present species is of smaller size. It is one of the most strongly marked and one of the most attractive of the species occurring in our fauna.

INSECTS AND HOMOEOPATHIC MAGIC

Sir James George Frazer in his "Golden Bough," a "study in magic and religion," states that the Arab, to bring back a slave who has run away "will trace a magic circle on the ground, stick a nail in the middle of it, and attach a beetle by a thread to the nail, taking care that the sex of the beetle is that of the fugitive. As the beetle crawls round and round, it will coil the thread about the nail, thus shortening its tether and drawing nearer to the center at every circuit." By reason of this magic the fugitive will be drawn back to his owner. Sometimes homœopathic magic is utilized to invalidate a bad omen by going through it imitatively. For example, in Madagascar, "if fate has decreed that a young girl, still unwed, should see her children, still unborn, descend before her with sorrow to the grave, she can avert the calamity as follows. She kills a grasshopper, wraps it in a rag to represent a shroud, and mourns over it like Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted. Moreover, she takes a dozen or more other grasshoppers, and having removed some of their superfluous legs and wings she lays them about their dead and shrouded fellow. The buzz of the tortured insects and the agitated motions of their mutilated limbs represent the shrieks and contortions of the mourners at a funeral. After burying the deceased grasshopper she leaves the rest to continue their mourning till death releases them from their pain; and having bound up her dishevelled hair she retires from the grave with the step and carriage of a person plunged in grief. Thenceforth she looks cheerfully forward to seeing her children survive her; for it cannot be that she should mourn and bury them twice over."—ED.